



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

Office of Program Resources Management

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**ECONOMIC GROWTH**  
**(Energy and Environment)**



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## Sulu beach cleanup yields 650 kilos garbage

PATIKUL, SULU—AMERICANS and Filipinos yesterday joined hands in cleaning the shores of Lintayon Beach in the village of Umangay here.

Elzaida Washington, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Deputy Chief of Mission, said she was happy to see villagers concerned about protecting and preserving the marine life.

“It’s heartwarming to see these efforts working in collaboration with local government officials as well as the communities on environment protection,” Washington said.

American and Filipino military forces took a break from their regular Joint Balikatan activities to assist villagers in coastal clean up.

The activity, dubbed Balikatan for Earth Day, yielded

about 650 kilos of solid wastes collected along the Lintayon Beach in just a few hours.

Armed with yellow and orange rubber gloves with markings “Save Sulu Sea,” black garbage plastic bags and brooms, military, local government officials and villagers gave their share for clean up operation.

Washington also helped by picking plastic waste together with staff members of the Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy (Amore).

Washington said the USAID will continue extending programs here that are environment friendly.

Tetchie Cruz-Capellan, chief of Amore Philippines, said they were not only providing renewable energies for poor

families dependent on fishing, but also established communities.

“We were able to contribute to the protection of the environment,” Cruz-Capellan said.

Col. William Coultrup, US Armed Forces commander in the Philippines, said the US troops in the Philippines, particularly those who are in Sulu, are not only preoccupied with the anti-terror campaign.

“We are also helping the community build water wells so people here will get clean and fresh water, and clean water means better health care for the people,” Coultrup said.

“We are showing support to the community, we really want to come out today to show our cooperation,” Coultrup said. *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*



CHILDREN join the Sulu Sea clean-up in Lintayon Beach, Barangay Umangay, Patikul, Sulu.

JULIE ALIPALA

(Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer, 4/22/08, page A15)